

**Update on “Indoor Sources” and “Permit it or Exempt it” statement
January 18, 2005**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is formally withdrawing the “Permit it or Exempt it” statement (“Requirements for Small Source Permitting and Exemptions,” revision date August 5, 2004). IDNR will resume its past practice of only requiring permits for indoor sources when needed to limit the facility’s potential emissions to reduce its regulatory burden (when those units were required to be permitted due to major source permitting requirements), or if the IDNR believes that the facility is trying to circumvent permitting requirements.

IDNR, company representatives, the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Emissions Assistance Program, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 7, met in a Work Group on January 10 to 12, 2005, to develop a new plan for addressing air pollution sources whose emissions are not directly vented to the outside (also known as “indoor” sources). This new plan includes:

1. Withdrawing the “Permit it or Exempt it” statement and its February 28, 2005 implementation deadline and in it’s place resuming the Department’s past practice for the regulatory treatment of these sources,
2. Pursuing EPA approval for DNR’s past practice of only requiring permits for indoor sources when as mentioned above this is needed to either limit a facility’s potential emissions to reduce its regulatory burden, or if the Department believes a facility is trying to circumvent permitting requirements,
3. Allowing the use of exemptions currently in DNR administrative rule to be available for sources which are covered under a MACT, NESHAPS or NSPS or other applicable federal standard,
4. Adopting a list of “trivial” activities not needing a permit into DNR’s administrative rules, and
5. Developing a more extensive list of exemptions from the requirement to get construction permits. These exemptions will be proposed in two rulemakings.

The Work Group is completing development of draft administrative rules to exempt 11 activities or equipment types from air construction permitting. These exemptions will have thresholds necessary to assure protection of air quality. The first set of exemptions will be introduced to the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) in March 2005. DNR will also include a list of “Trivial Activities” for which permits are not required. To provide industry and the public with an opportunity to help develop these rules, a first draft of the rules will be posted on the DNR website (www.iowacleanair.com), and distributed through the “Air-tech” list server February 17th, 2005.

The WorkGroup will consider comments sent to the Department before the rule is taken back to the EPC on April 2005 for formal consideration and public comment. Final action on the rule is expected in July, 2005. Each of the activities listed below will be addressed in the first rulemaking. However, these exemptions will not apply to all sizes and types of this equipment, except to the extent that an adequate justification for rulemaking can be developed. Those under development include:

1. Welding and brazing,
2. Storage & mixing of flammable materials,
3. Powder coating operations,
4. Conveying of wet grain,
5. Research and development,
6. Saw Dust with pollution control,
7. Spray aerosols,
8. Direct fired heating,
9. Phosphatizing,
10. Pressurized storage tanks, and
11. Refrigeration systems.

“Trivial Activities” include the following:

1. Cafeterias, kitchens, and other facilities used for preparing food or beverages primarily for consumption at the source.
2. Consumer use of office equipment and products, not including printers or businesses primarily involved in photographic reproduction.
3. Janitorial services and consumer use of janitorial products.
4. Internal combustion engines used for lawn care, landscaping, and grounds-keeping purposes.
5. Laundry activities, not including dry-cleaning and steam boilers.
6. Bathroom vent emissions, including toilet vent emissions.
7. Blacksmith forges.
8. Plant maintenance and upkeep activities, and repair or maintenance shop activities (e.g., grounds-keeping, general repairs, cleaning, painting, welding, plumbing, re-tarring roofs, installing insulation, and paving parking lots) provided these activities are not conducted as part of a manufacturing process, are not related to the source's primary business activity, and not otherwise triggering a permit modification. Cleaning and painting activities qualify if they are not subject to VOC or HAP control requirements.
9. Air compressors and vacuum pumps, including hand tools.
10. Batteries and battery charging stations, except at battery manufacturing plants.
11. Storage tanks, reservoirs, pumping and handling equipment of any size, and equipment used to mix and package soaps, detergents, surfactants, waxes, glycerin, vegetable oils, greases, animal fats, sweetener, corn syrup, and aqueous salt or caustic solutions, provided appropriate lids and covers are utilized and no organic solvent has been mixed with such materials.

12. Equipment used exclusively to slaughter animals, but not including other equipment at slaughterhouses, such as rendering cookers, boilers, heating plants, incinerators, and electrical power generating equipment.
13. Vents from continuous emissions monitors and other analyzers.
14. Natural gas pressure regulator vents, excluding venting at oil and gas production facilities.
15. Equipment used for surface coating by brush or roller, painting, and dipping operations, except those that will emit VOC or HAP.
16. Hydraulic and hydrostatic testing equipment.
17. Environmental chambers not using HAP gasses.
18. Shock chambers and humidity chambers, and solar simulators.
19. Fugitive dust emissions related to movement of passenger vehicles on unpaved road surfaces, provided the emissions are not counted for applicability purposes and any fugitive dust control plan or its equivalent is submitted as required by the department.
20. Process water filtration systems and demineralizers, demineralized water tanks, and demineralizer vents.
21. Boiler water treatment operations, not including cooling towers.
22. Oxygen scavenging (de-aeration) of water.
23. Fire suppression systems.
24. Emergency road flares.
25. Steam vents and safety relief valves, steam leaks, and steam sterilizers.
26. Steam sterilizers.
27. Recycling centers.

The workgroup will meet again in July 2005 to prepare technical justifications to support a second exemption rulemaking. The following equipment, activities, and processes have been suggested to be considered for the second exemption rulemaking:

Product labeling, coating operations, aqueous cleaning systems, small parts washers, steam cleaning, small electric heat transfer furnaces, laser, electric, plasma, and gaseous fuel cutting, dry cleaners, cooling towers, polymer mixing, plastic injection molders, spray application of water based glue, hand held applicators for hot metal adhesive, equipment for used for surface coating, ozone generators, salt baths, drop hammers, extruders, wet grain and coke products handling, spray aerosols and trigger sprayers used for cleaning, pressurized refrigerant storage tanks, paved roads, and possible vehicle maintenance activities.

If you would like additional information on this please contact the following individuals at the DNR: Jim McGraw, Supervisor, Air Quality Bureau at 515/242-5167 or Christine Spackman, Business Assistance Coordinator at 515/281-7276.